

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS!

brian BUCCELLATO • pasquale QUALANO • john STARR • josh REED

#2

10
FOR
10

COVER A

ALL NEW
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT



2013

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#2

10
FOR
10

COVER B

ALL NEW
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

IRIS

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT



John
Moon



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by Pasquale Qualano
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Special Reserved Edition
by Francis Manapul
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Retailer Incentive Edition
by J. Scott Campbell

HONOR BOUND

PART 2 OF 5

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

- story -

PASQUALE QUALANO

- pencils -

MARK ROSLAN
& CHAZ RIGGS

- digital inks -

JOHN STARR

- colors -

JOSH REED

- lettering -

The story so far...

Iris returned to Wuhan to reclaim some semblance of the honor and loyalty that came with her past life as an Executive Assistant, finding a position available to work for Maly Ang, a powerful businesswoman. The competition for the job came down to her and Snapdragon, a feisty--yet dangerous--adversary, as they defended Maly from her deadly rivals in a Tokyo night club. Yet, Iris decided to remove herself from the fight after the situation became far less honorable than Iris was comfortable with--proving to Maly her worth in the process...

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 4 Issue 2

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MY NAME IS IRIS. I AM PART OF AN ELITE SISTERHOOD OF HIGHLY TRAINED PERSONAL BODYGUARDS CALLED EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO I INTERVIEWED WITH MALY LIM, THE WOMAN BESIDE ME, IN HOPES OF FINDING AN EMPLOYER THAT I CAN FINALLY TRUST.

WHERE IS SHE, MALY?!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT--

--DO NOT DISHONOR ME WITH LIES, OR I WILL HAVE MY MEN CUT YOU DOWN WHERE YOU STAND!

KLICK

KLICK

KAH-KLICK

AFTER AN UNORTHODOX INTERVIEW TURNED AMBUSH, I DISCOUNTED HER AS ANOTHER DUPLICITOUS AND POWER HUNGRY MOGUL. BUT MOMENTS AGO, SHE SOUGHT ME OUT AND MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR MY SERVICES.

MALY WAS RECENTLY SET UP BY HER MENTOR, HAN LI SHAO-- FOR REASONS THAT ARE PRESENTLY UNCLEAR TO ME. HOWEVER...

...SINCE SHAO AND HIS CADRE OF ARMED MERCENARIES HAVE JUST SURROUNDED US, I ASSUME WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

SHAO IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD. HIS REPUTATION DOESN'T JUST PRECEDE HIM, IT MAKES THE GROUND TREMBLE.


CONVENTIONAL WISDOM SAYS THAT SHAO IS NOT SOMEONE YOU WANT AS AN ENEMY.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM BE DAMNED.




I DON'T LIKE GUNS POINTED IN MY FACE!

IRIS, NO!



YOUR STANDING AMONG
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS IS
WITHOUT PEER.

THEN YOU
SHOULD HAVE NO
PROBLEM INSTRUCTING
THEM TO STAND DOWN,
MISTER SHAO... UNLESS
YOU THINK THEY CAN
FIRE BEFORE I OPEN
YOUR THROAT.




PLEASE,
SHAO HAS A KNACK
FOR CHEAP THEATRICS...
THIS STANDOFF ISN'T
NECESSARY.




WATCH
YOUR TONGUE,
MALY!

WATCH
YOURS WHEN YOU
ADDRESS HER.



I'M NOT
SOMEONE YOU
WANT AS AN ENEMY,
IRIS. I'M SURE YOUR
FIRST EMPLOYER
CHING, TAUGHT
YOU AS MUCH.

INVOKE HIS
NAME AGAIN AND
YOU WILL MAKE YOUR
NEXT ENEMY IN THE
AFTERWORLD.



THEN
WE UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER.



STAND DOWN.



MALY... TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T KEPT THIS FROM ME ALL THESE YEARS.

AFTER ALL I HAVE DONE FOR YOU... ALL I HAVE GIVEN YOU.

WHAT CHOICE DID YOU LEAVE ME, HAN LI?



HONOR. YOU SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN HONOR! THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME FOR THE LIFE I GAVE YOU?

GAVE ME?! NO... THIS WAS PAYMENT FOR THE LIFE YOU WANTED TO TAKE.



PAYMENT YOU NEVER MADE!

WHERE IS SHE?! WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER?!



I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME. OR I WOULD BE HONOR-BOUND TO TELL YOU.

LIES! I KNOW SHE IS SOMEWHERE IN THERE... IN YOUR SCHOOL!



SHE MAY BE... BUT FOR HER OWN SAFETY, I DO NOT KNOW WHO SHE IS.

THEN I WILL GO IN THERE AND FIND HER!



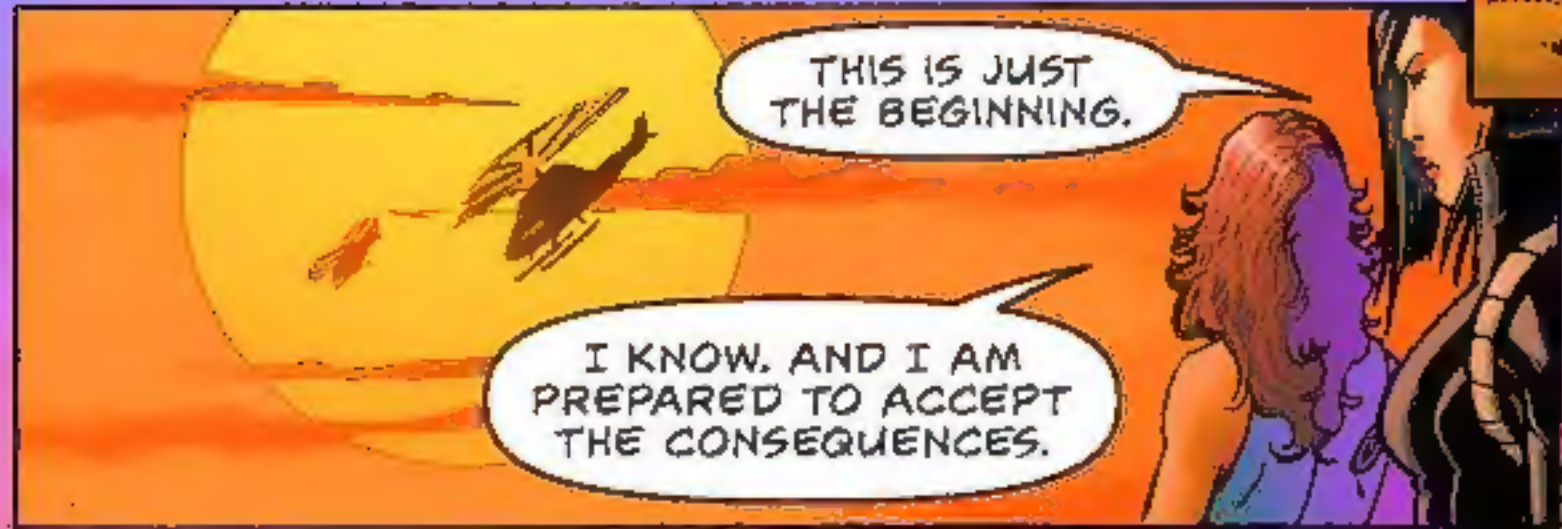
YOU ARE WELCOME TO TRY.

BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK THEY ARE GOING TO LET YOU FLY OUT OF HERE WITH ONE OF THEIR SISTERS.

YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR PLACE, MALX.



REST ASSURED THAT I WILL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.




THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

I KNOW. AND I AM PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES.



WHY?



BECAUSE SHE'S MY DAUGHTER, TOO.

"MY HISTORY WITH HAN LI SHAO GOES BACK TWENTY YEARS. BORN FROM NOBILITY, HE WAS A YOUNG AND FEARLESS BUSINESSMAN WHO CARRIED THE AURA OF GREATNESS.

"I BEGAN WORKING FOR HIM RIGHT OUT OF SCHOOL. A YOUNG, WIDE-EYED TEEN WITH SO MUCH TO LEARN IN LIFE.

"I TRAVELED THE WORLD WITH SHAO AND SAW SO MANY THINGS. I SAW A MAN BUILD A GLOBAL EMPIRE AND BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD.

"IT WAS INTOXICATING.

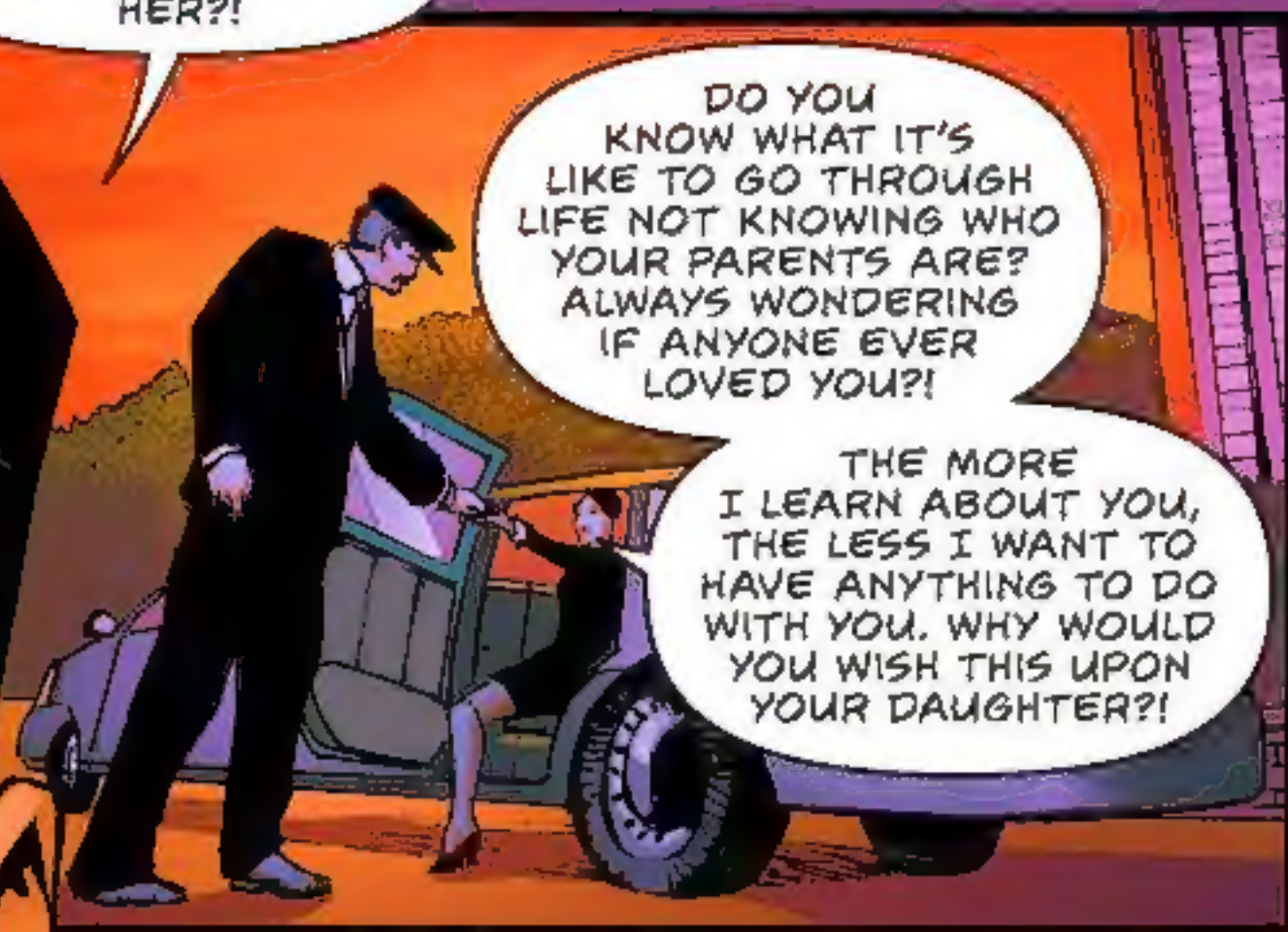
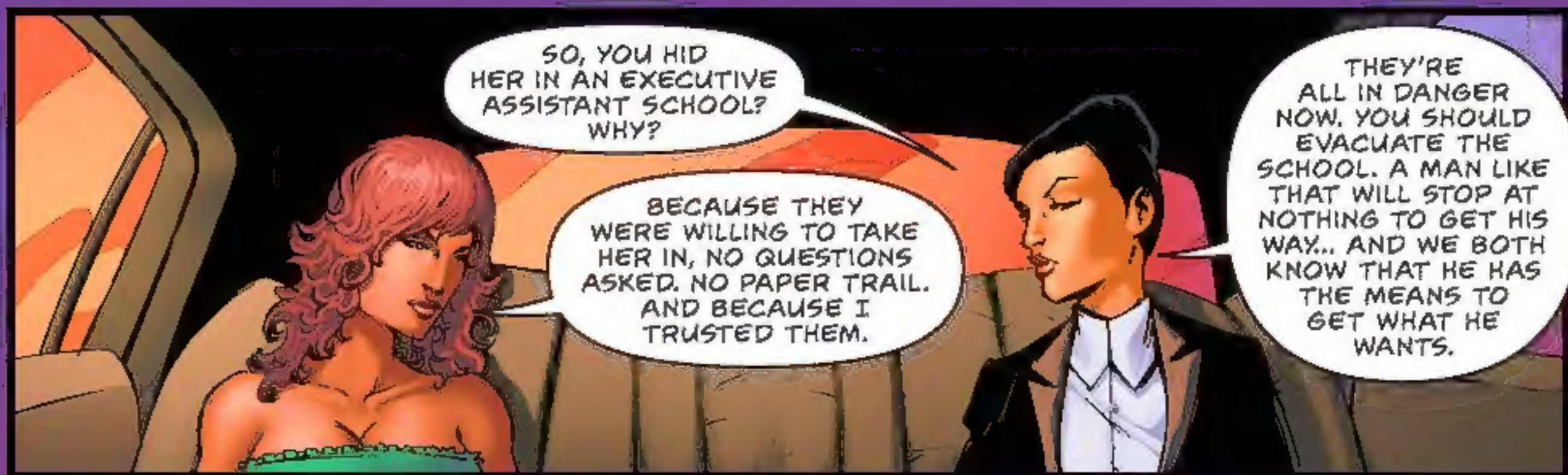
"NATURALLY, WE FELL FOR EACH OTHER. BUT IT WAS NO PASSING FLING, IT WAS LOVE THAT ENDURED FOR YEARS.

"BUT BECAUSE OF HIS NOBILITY AND MY COMMON LINEAGE, MARRIAGE WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

"OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS A TICKING CLOCK. AND EVEN AFTER HE MARRIED A WOMAN OF HIS PEDIGREE, WE HELD ON.

"THE CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT ON THE DAY I DISCOVERED I WAS PREGNANT.

"HIS WIFE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO ONLY DAUGHTERS... IF IT HAD BEEN A BOY, PERHAPS THE CHILD WOULD'VE HAD A CHANCE... BUT IT WAS A GIRL, AND AN ILLEGITIMATE DAUGHTER WAS WORTHLESS TO HIM."



IRIS' WATERFRONT CONDO.

I'M SURPRISED
YOU CALLED.

THERE'S
A CLEAN GLASS
ON THE TABLE,
AGENT.

THIS IS
ABOUT MALY
LIM, ISN'T IT? DID
YOU ACCEPT
THE JOB?

NOT YET.

WHICH MEANS
THERE ARE MAJOR
RED FLAGS.

SO WHY
ARE YOU EVEN
DEBATING THIS? YOU
CAN HAVE VIRTUALLY
ANY ASSISTANT JOB
YOU WANT.

THE GIRL.
IF I DO NOTHING,
THEN SHE WILL
DIE.

ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR
A JOB OR A
CAUSE?

I'M LOOKING
FOR SOMEONE
I CAN BELIEVE
IN. OR AT LEAST
SOME THING. IS
THAT TOO MUCH
TO HOPE FOR?

DOUBLE-DEALING
IS MY BUSINESS, SO I MAY
NOT BE THE ONE TO ASK... BUT
I DON'T KNOW IF SUCH A JOB
EXISTS, IRIS. TRUST? YOU KNOW
BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT
EVERYONE HAS A
PRICE.

I DON'T.
AND IF THIS
IS TRUE FOR
ME, THEN I
SHOULDN'T
EXPECT
LESS.

IT SOUNDS TO
ME LIKE MALY ISN'T
THAT PERSON. BUT IF
YOU'RE WILLING TO SETTLE
FOR A CAUSE, CONSIDER
THIS-- THAT GIRL IS YOU,
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...
AND HER LIFE IS IN
DANGER.

THE SHAO-ANG
GREEN TOWER.

THEY'RE
ALREADY ON
THEIR WAY.

HOW MANY?

A COUPLE
DOZEN.

IS THERE
ANY WAY THEY
FOUND OUT HER
IDENTITY?

NOT POSSIBLE.

THEN SHAO
HAS TWO CHOICES...
DNA TESTING OR BURN
THE WHOLE PLACE
DOWN.

THERE WOULD
BE TOO MANY QUESTIONS IF
HE TORCHED THE SCHOOL.
IT WILL BE QUIET.

AND WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
TO DO?

I AM BOUND
BY HONOR TO DO
NOTHING.

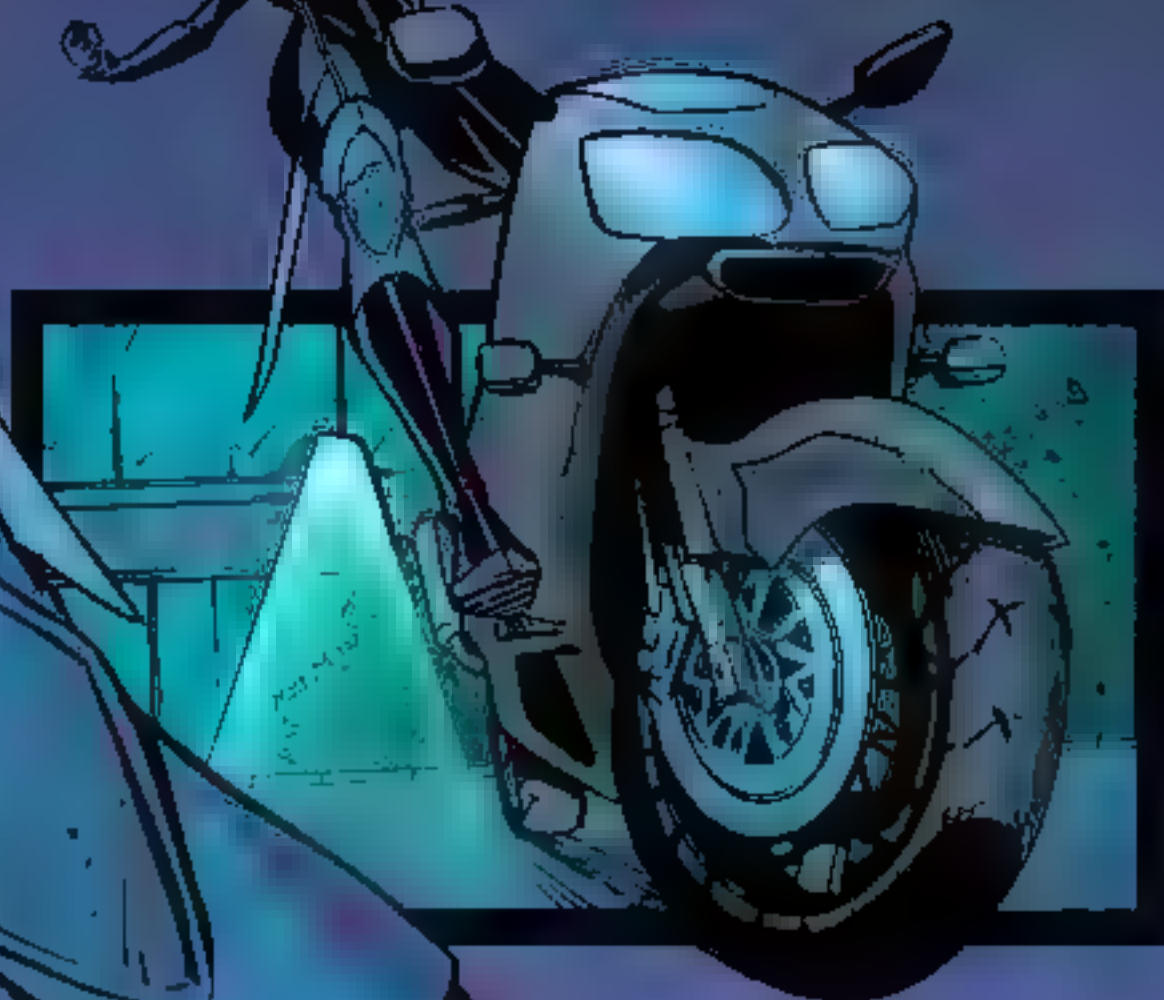
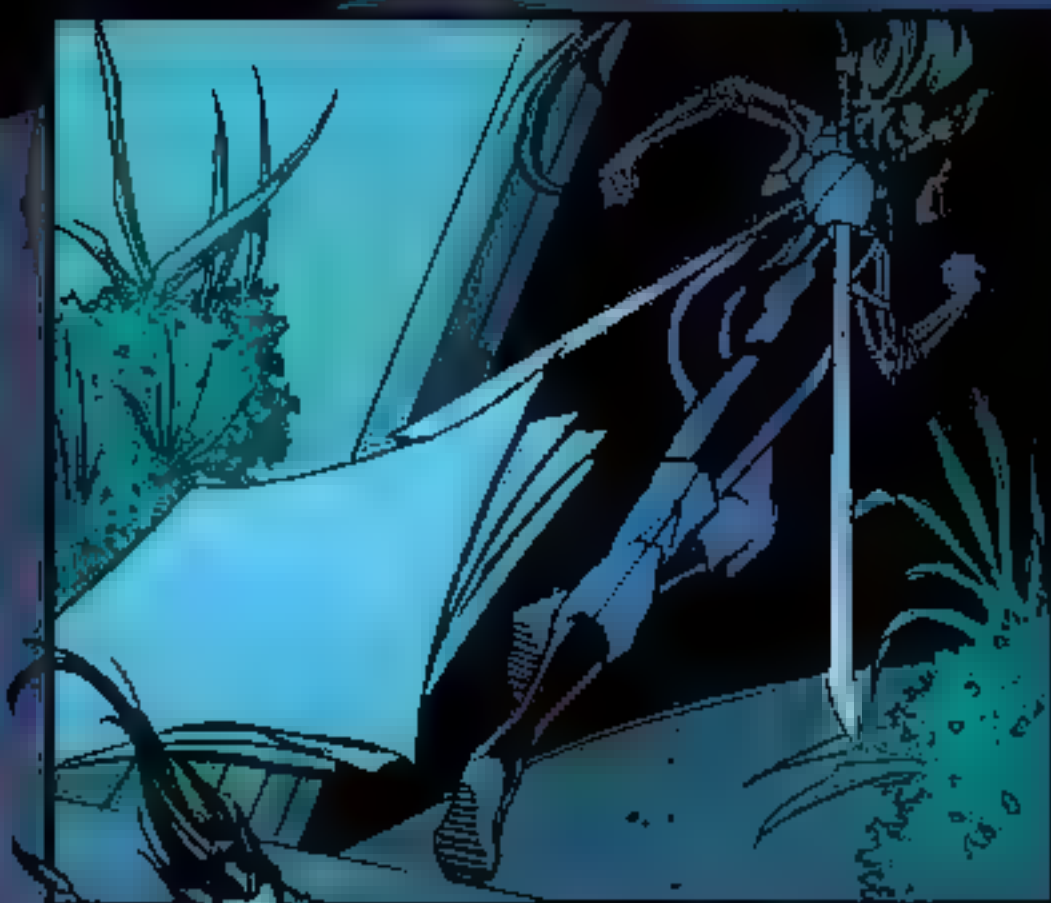
BUT I
HAVE NO SUCH
RESTRICTIONS. THAT'S
WHAT YOU WERE
COUNTING ON.

I HOPED.

IF YOU DON'T
KNOW HER NAME, HOW
AM I SUPPOSED TO
FIND HER?

ALL I HAVE
ARE PICTURES...
THIS ONE IS A FEW
YEARS OLD.

I'LL
GET HER TO
SAFETY.



MALY PLANNED TO PLAY ON
MY SYMPATHIES ALL ALONG.
SHE ASSUMED I WOULD SEE
MYSELF IN THAT GIRL...

SHE ASSUMED THAT I WOULD
TAKE UP HER CAUSE TO SAVE AN
INNOCENT YOUNG GIRL.

VAARRRR-OOOOOOOO

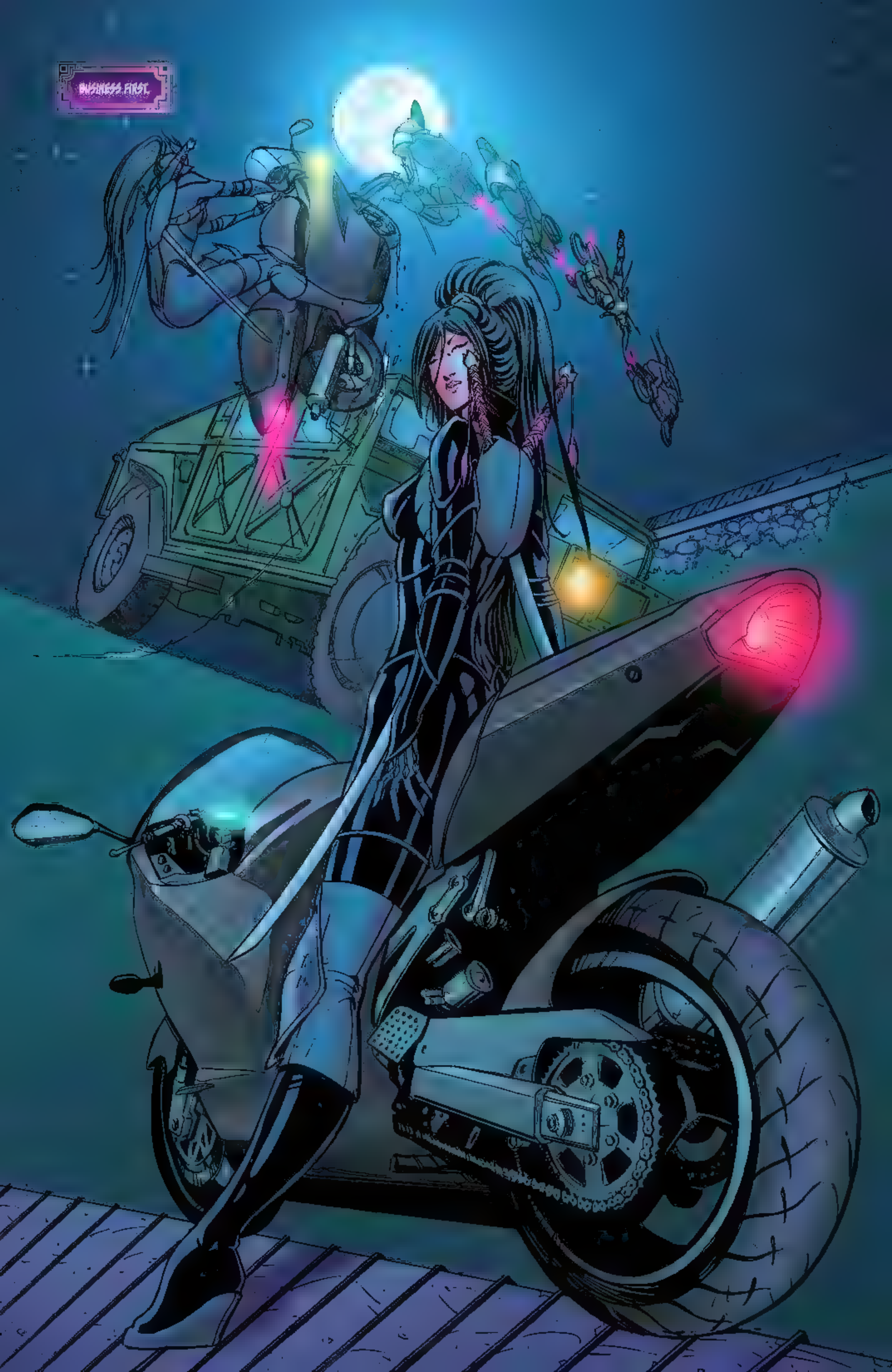
THE WUHAN ACADEMY.

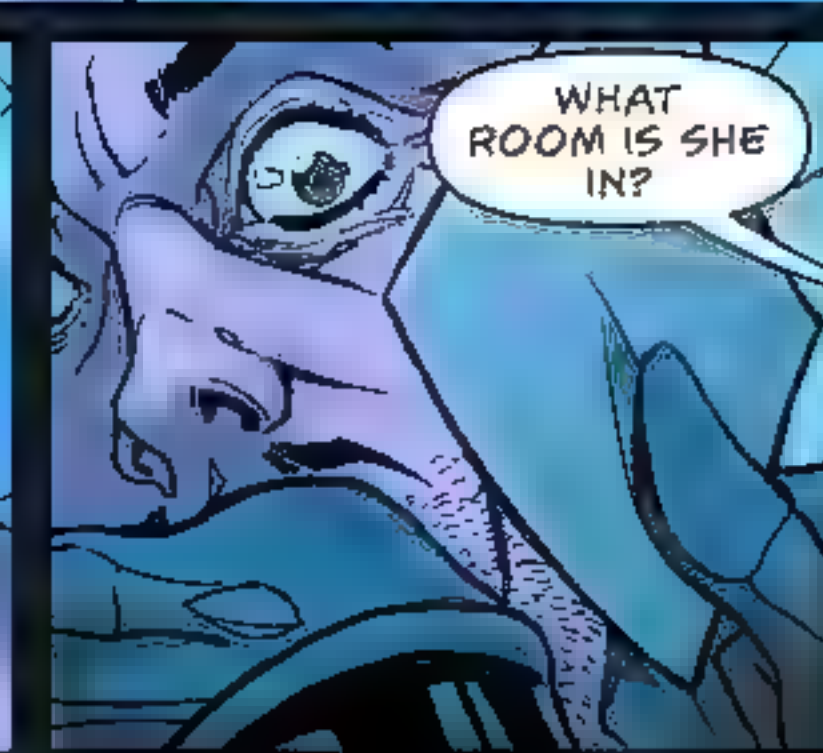
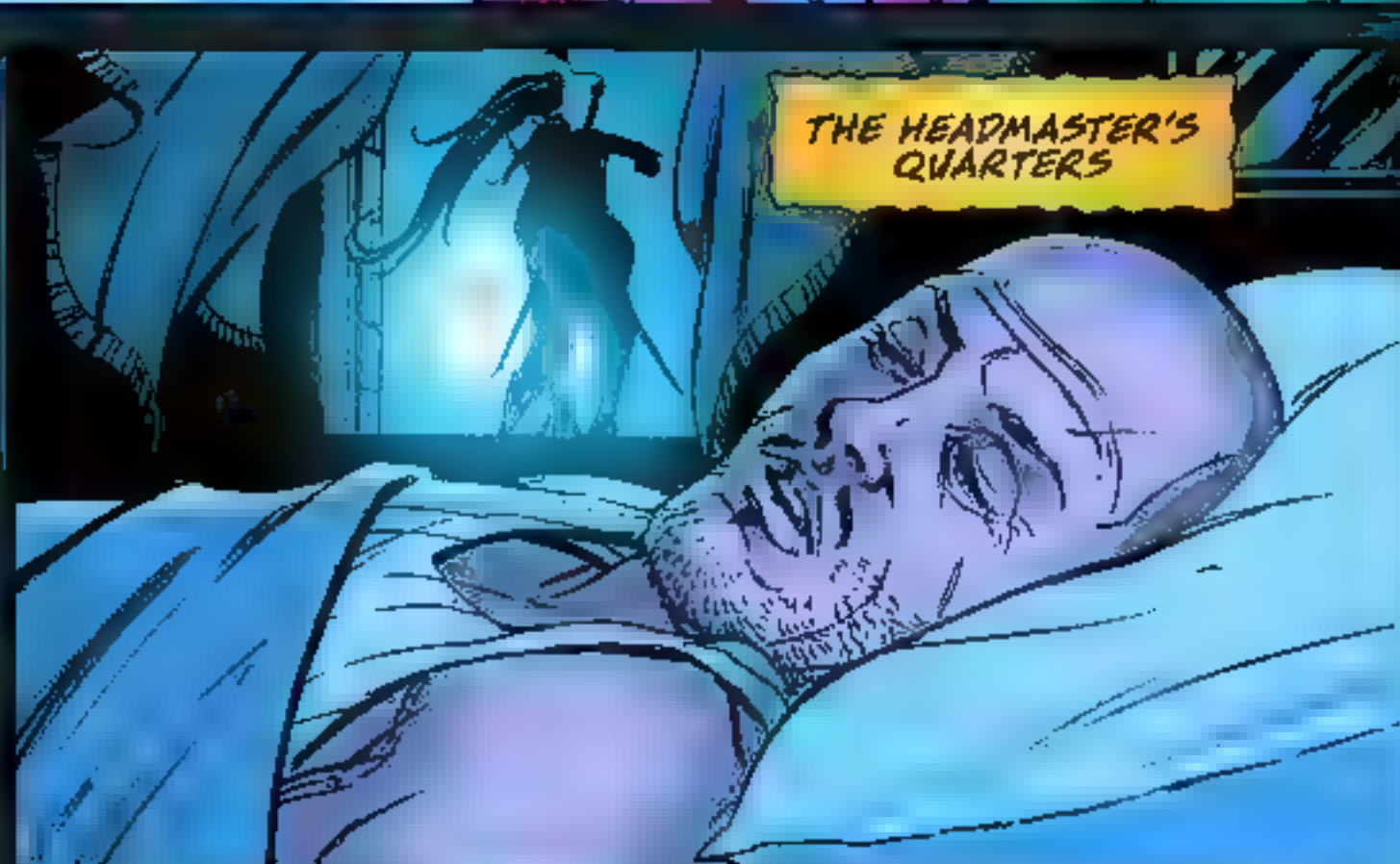
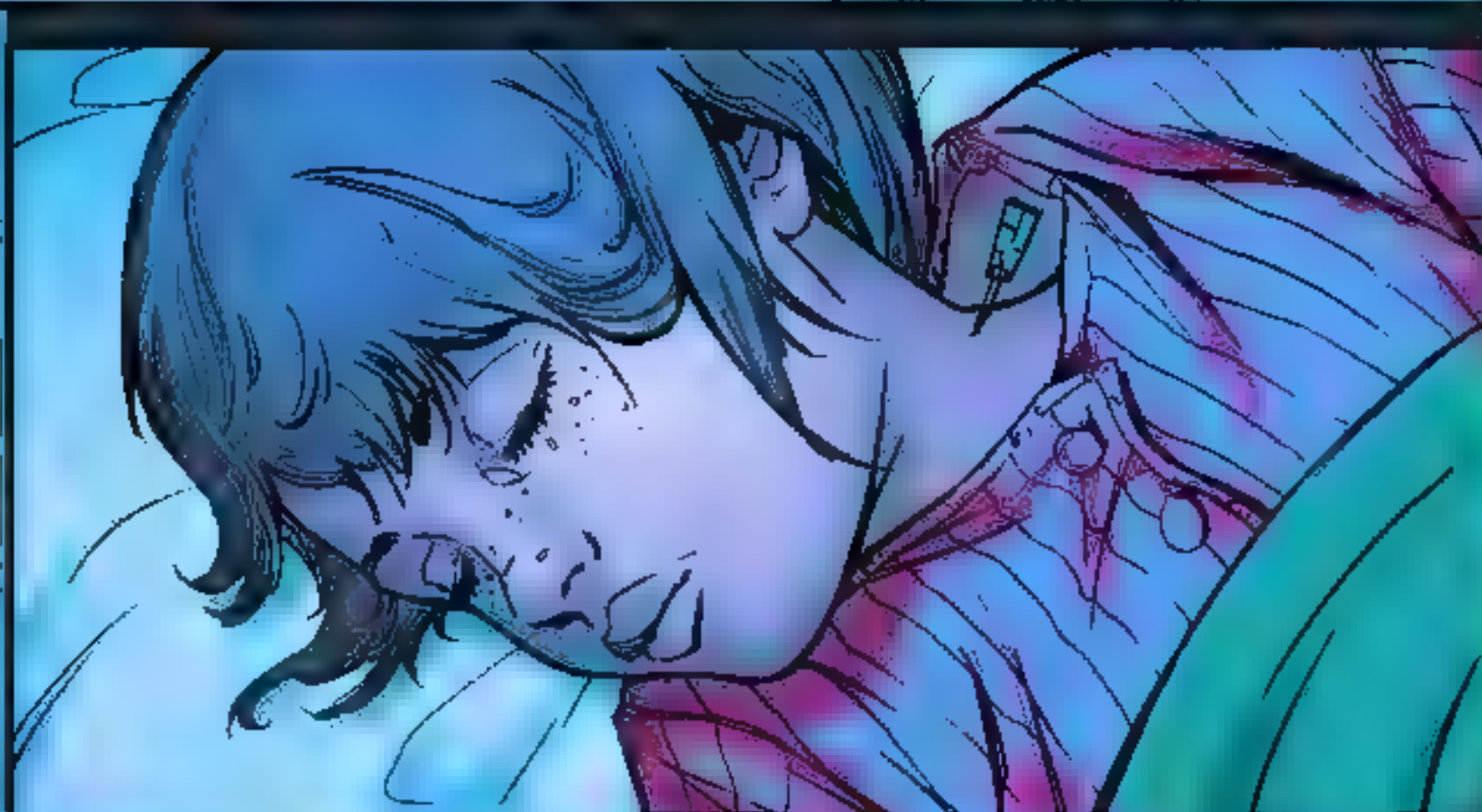
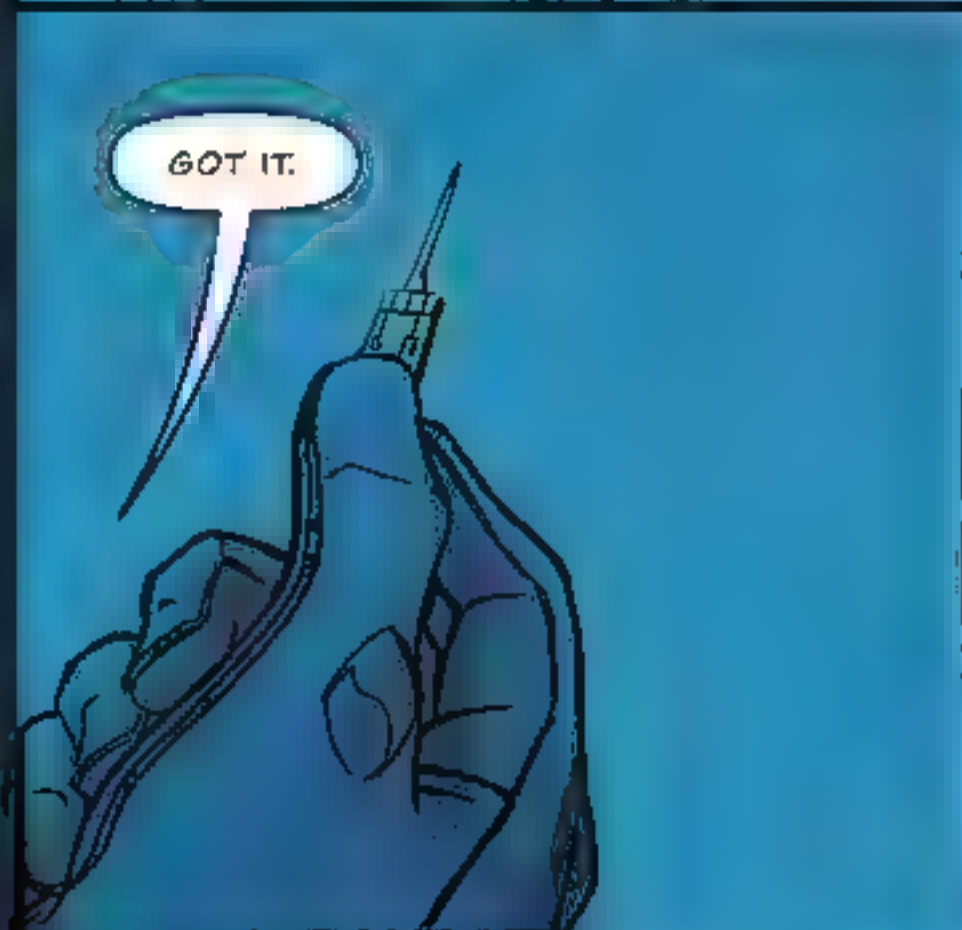
SHE WAS RIGHT.

I HATE THESE
MANIPULATIONS.

I WILL DEAL WITH MALY'S
DECEIT LATER...

BUSINESS FIRST



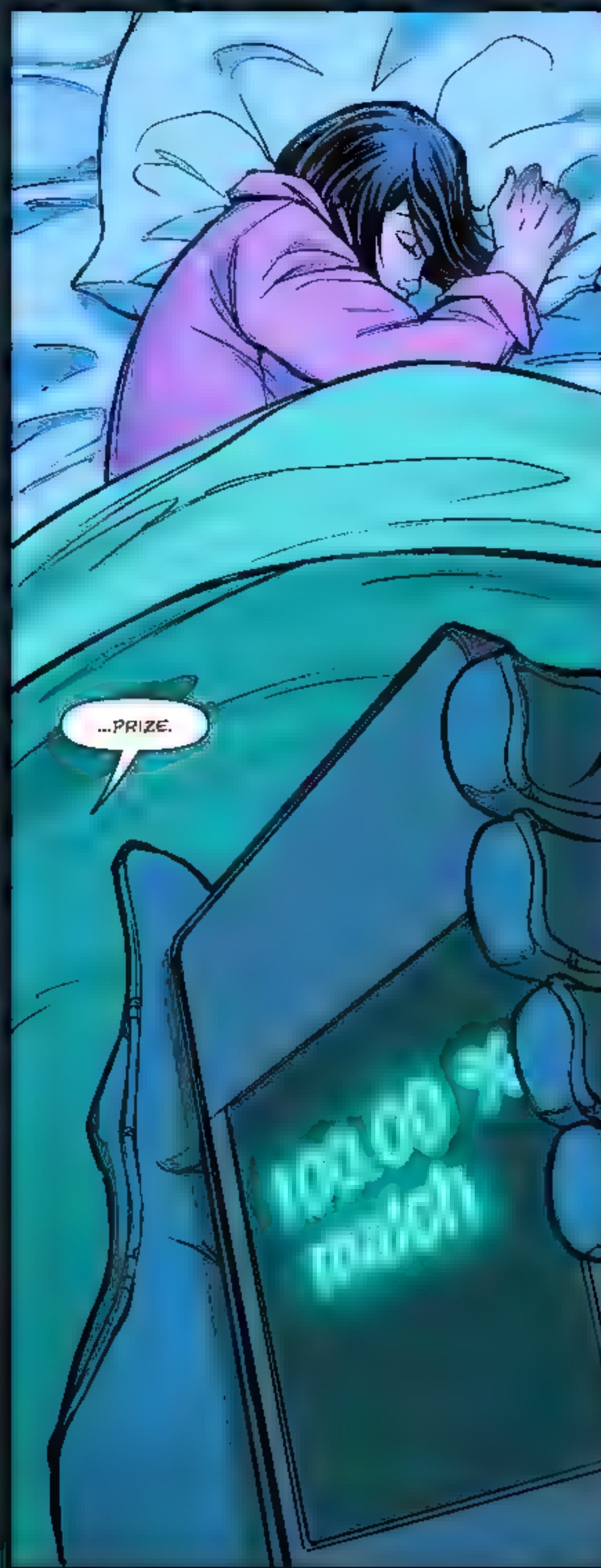




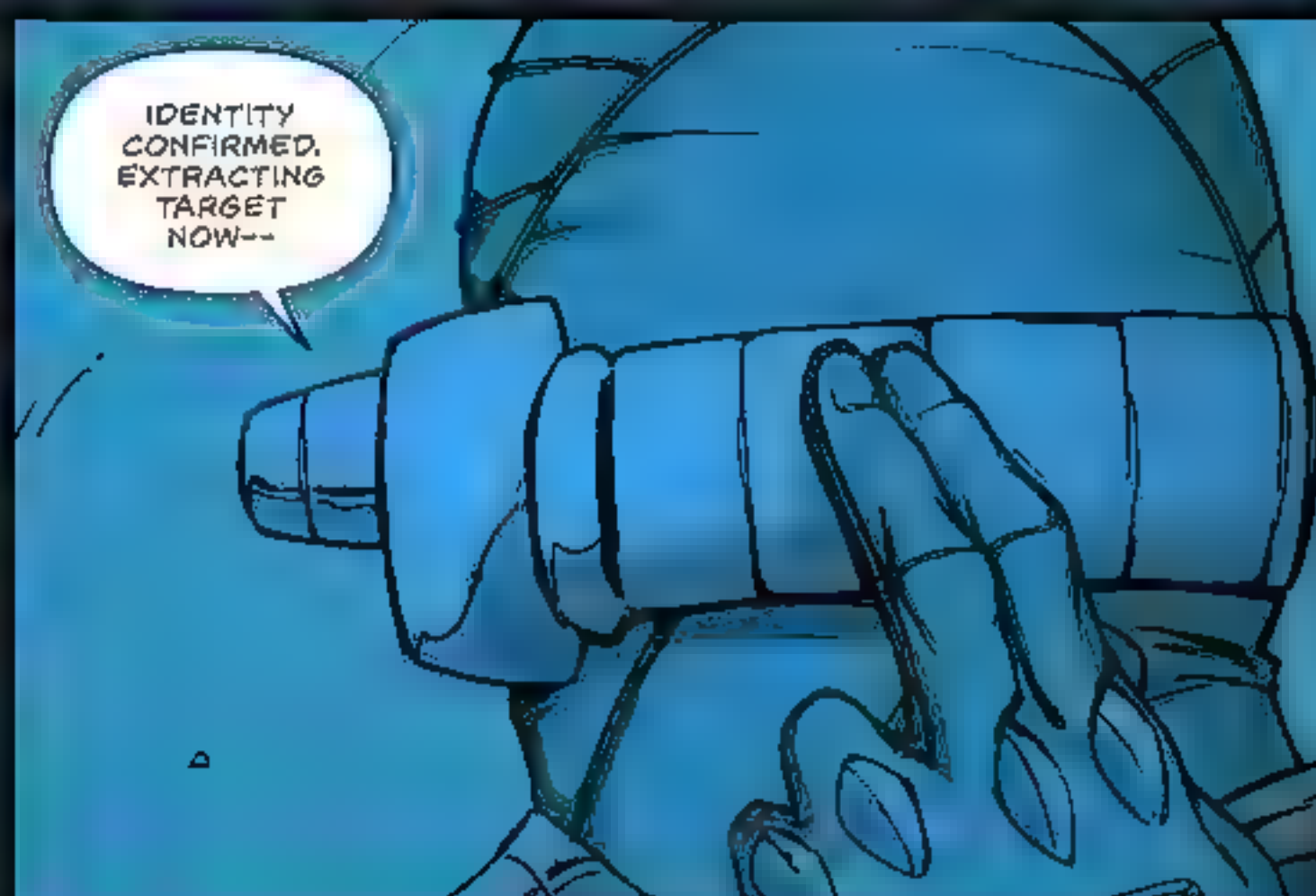


YOU HEAR THAT?

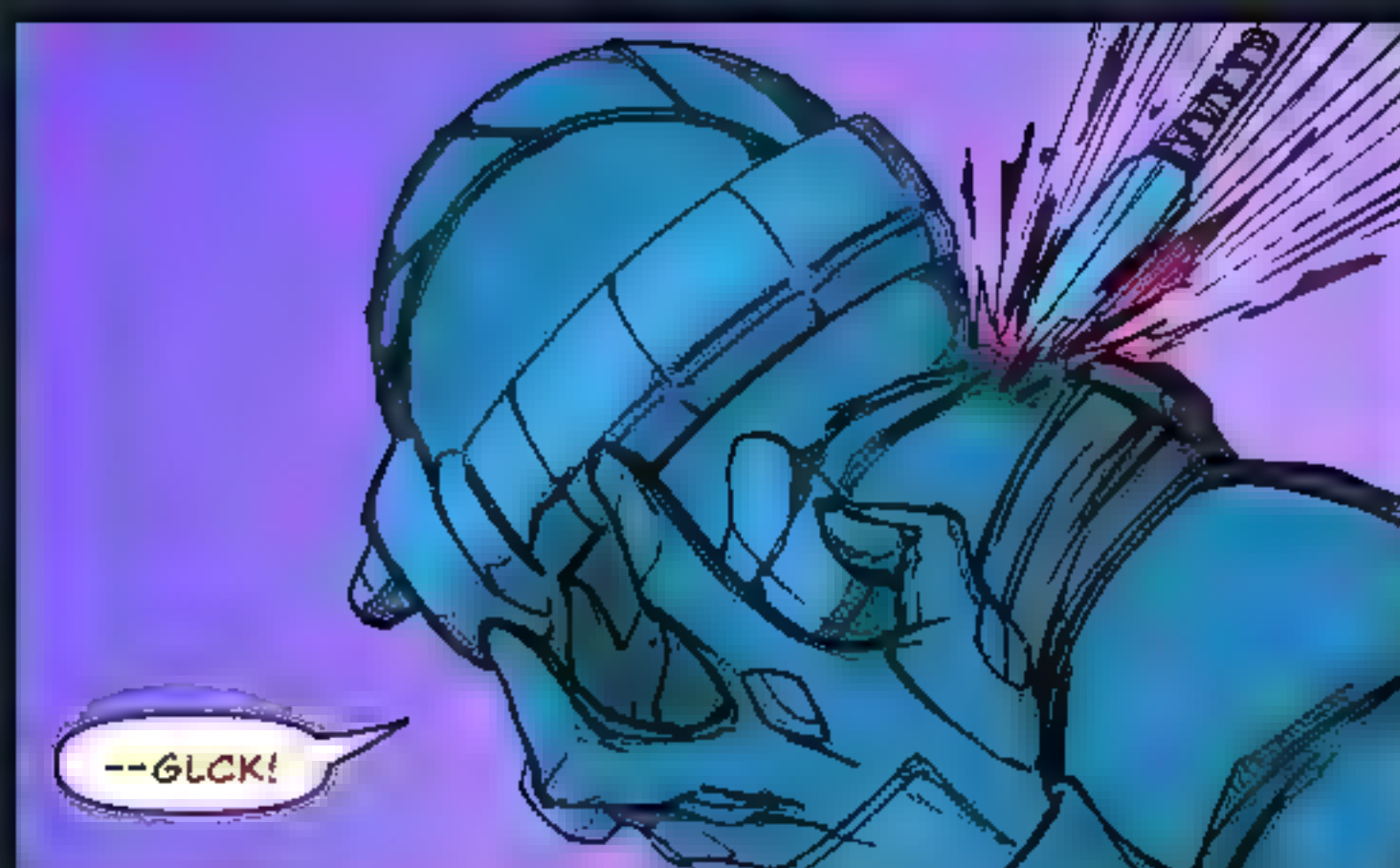
DOESN'T MATTER. KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE...



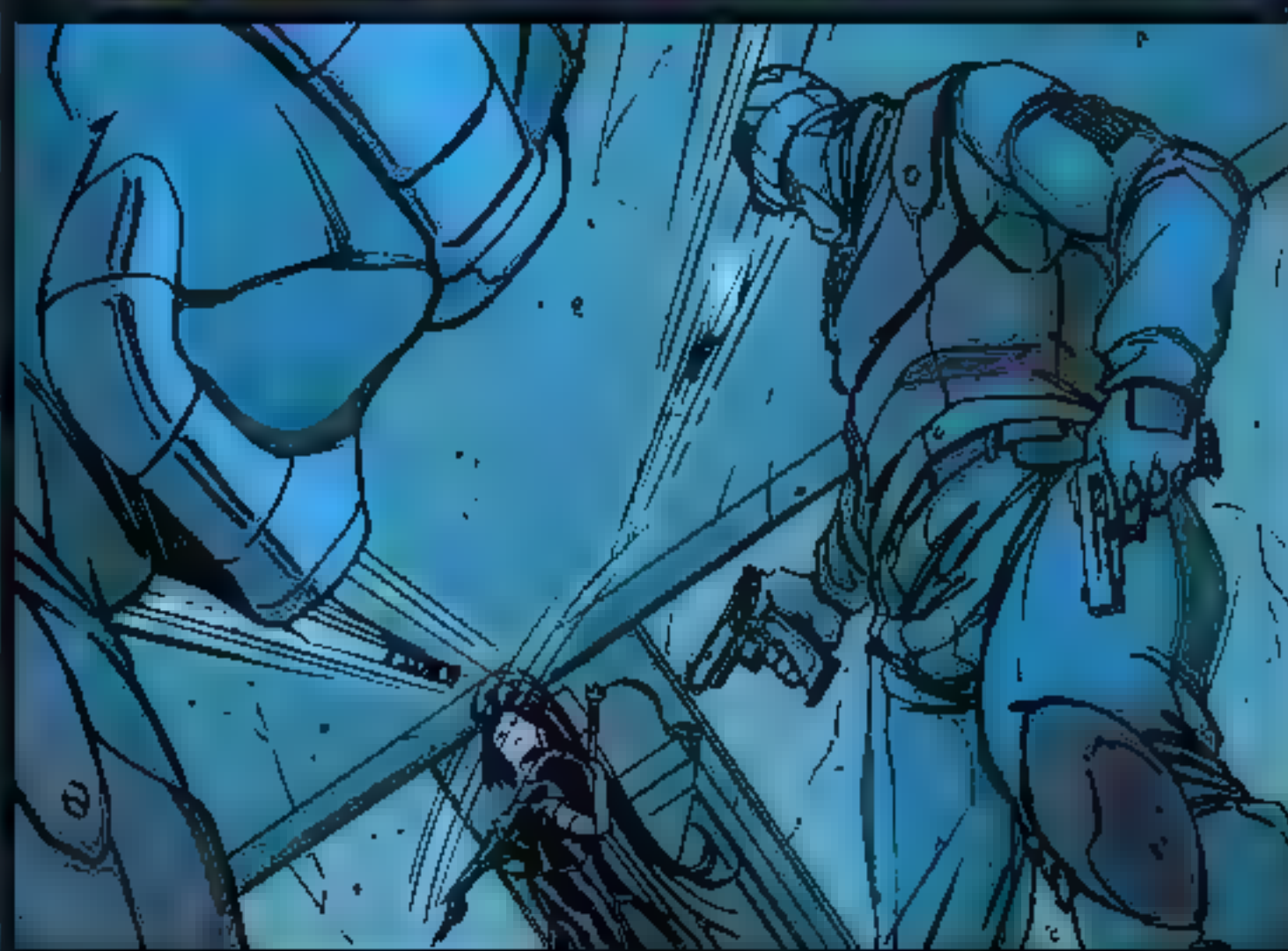
...PRIZE.

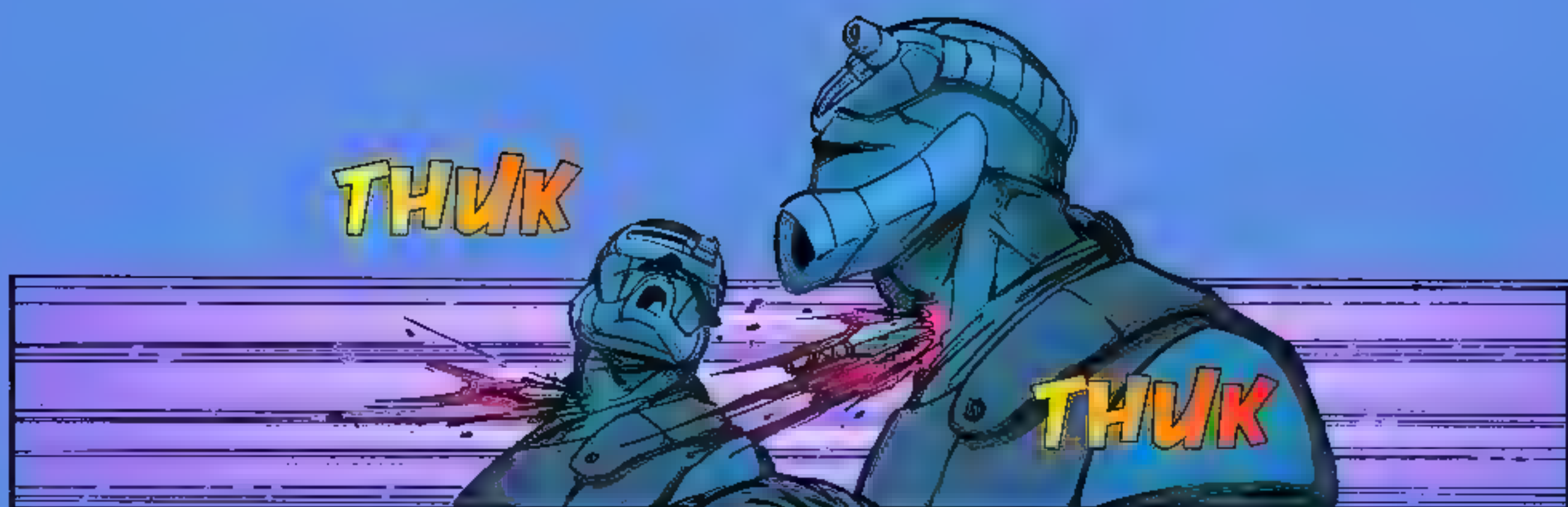


IDENTITY CONFIRMED. EXTRACTING TARGET NOW--



--GLCK!







I...
I KNOW YOU...
YOU'RE--

--LISTEN
TO ME. THERE
ARE MEN HERE
TO KILL YOU. WE
NEED TO--



PHTT
PHTT

WE
NEED TO
GO!

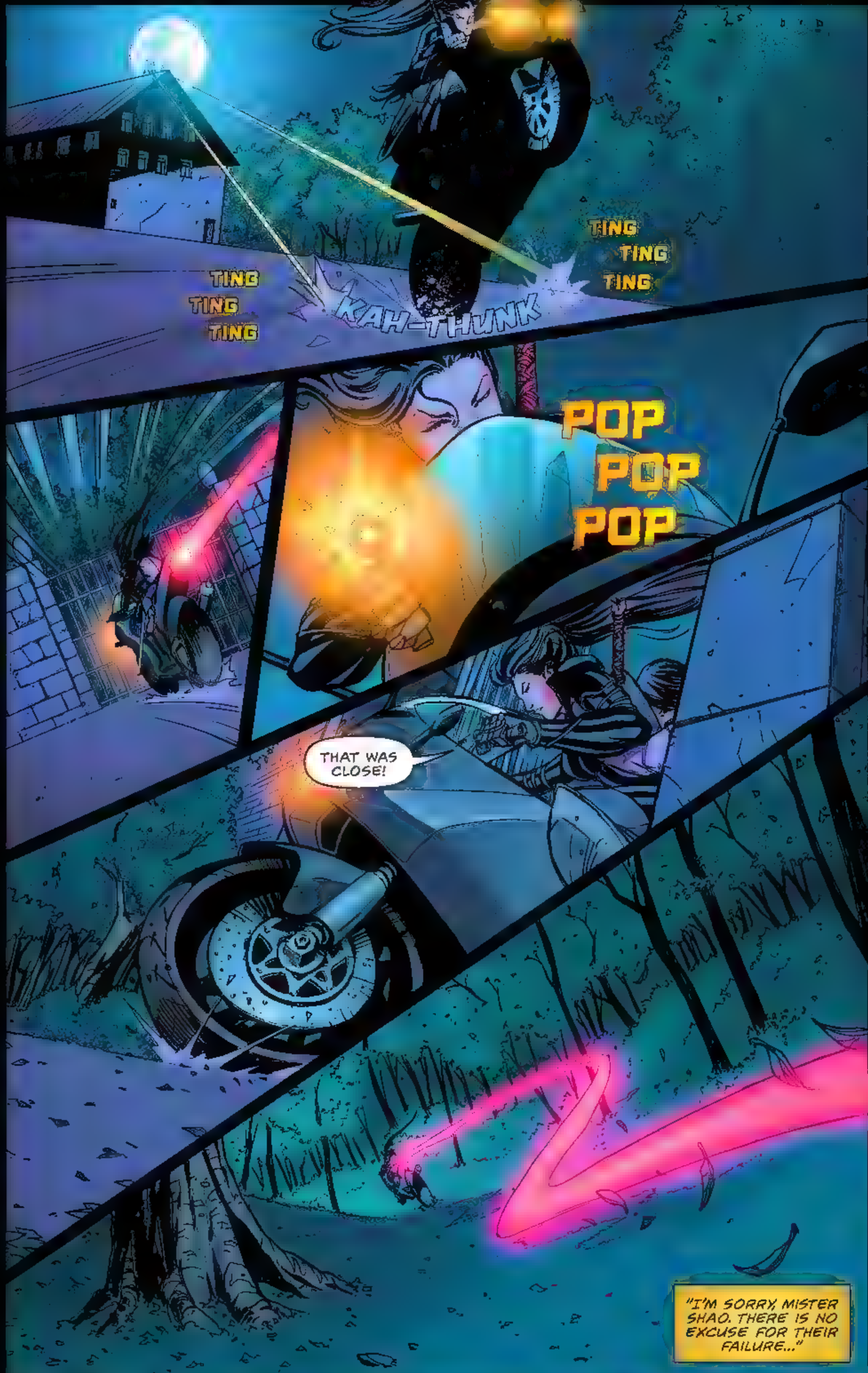
WHY ME?!

LATER.
RIGHT NOW
I NEED YOU
TO...



...HOLD ON!!!





TING
TING
TING

TING
TING
TING

KAH-THUNK

POP
POP
POP

THAT WAS
CLOSE!

"I'M SORRY, MISTER
SHAO. THERE IS NO
EXCUSE FOR THEIR
FAILURE..."

THE HOME OF
HAN LI SHAO.

THEY WERE A
TOP-FLIGHT TEAM OF
MY CHOOSING. I ACCEPT
FULL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THIS.

YOUR MISTAKE
WAS NOT ACCOUNTING
FOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
IRIS. HER PROWESS DWARFS
EVEN HER LEGENDARY
REPUTATION.

WE'VE
ALREADY PUT A
BOUNTY ON HER AS
YOU REQUESTED.
TEN MILLION
DOLLARS.

WHEN SHE
IS FOUND, THEY
WILL FIND YOUR
DAUGHTER.

EXCUSE
ME, SIR. I
HAVE YOUR
GUEST...

...EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT:
SNAPDRAGON.

MISTER SHAO,
I'LL TAKE YOUR
TEN MILLION.

TO BE
CONTINUED...
ALL NEW EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS #3

ALL NEW
**EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT



**10
FOR
10**

**DON'T MISS
THE NEXT
THRILLING
ISSUE!**

#3



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(THE FLASH, BLACK BAT, FOSTER)

PENCILS BY:
PASQUALE QUALANO
(IDOLIZED, SOULFIRE, GRACE)

COLORS BY:
JOHN STARR
(LEGEND OF THE SHADOW CLAN, FATHOM, SOULFIRE)

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